CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of distributed collaborative computing comprising:

partitioning a collaboration function into sub-functions;

assigning at least one said sub-function to each of a plurality of logical processes;

associating a respective management process with each of said plurality of logical processes, said logical processes configured so that each said logical process is capable of communicating with every other said logical process thru said respective management process;

communicating between said logical processes using said respective management processes; and

monitoring said respective management processes with a single supervisor process;

wherein said communicating employs a secure protocol on a dedicated network.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said secure protocol comprises encryption.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said secure protocol comprises compression.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said secure protocol comprises TCP/IP messages employing a proprietary message syntax.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said secure protocol comprises a proprietary message syntax, compression, and encryption.

6. A computer program for use in distributed collaborative computing, comprising computer instructions for:

partitioning a collaboration function into sub-functions;

assigning at least one said sub-function to each of a plurality of logical processes;

associating a respective management process with each of said plurality of logical processes, said logical processes configured so that each said logical process is capable of communicating with every other said logical process thru said respective management process;

communicating between said logical processes using said respective management processes; and

monitoring said respective management processes with a single supervisor process;

wherein said communicating employs a secure protocol on a dedicated network.

7. The computer program of Claim 6, wherein said secure protocol comprises encryption.

8. The computer program of Claim 6, wherein said secure protocol comprises compression.

9. The computer program of Claim 6, wherein said secure protocol comprises TCP/IP messages employing a proprietary message syntax.

10. The computer program of Claim 6, wherein said secure protocol comprises a proprietary message syntax, compression, and encryption.

11. A computer-readable medium storing a computer program executable by a plurality of server computers, the computer program comprising computer instructions for:

partitioning a collaboration function into sub-functions;

assigning at least one said sub-function to each of a plurality of logical processes;

associating a respective management process with each of said plurality of logical processes, said logical processes configured so that each said logical process is capable of communicating with every other said logical process thru said respective management process;

communicating between said logical processes using said respective management processes; and

monitoring said respective management processes with a single supervisor process;

wherein said communicating employs a secure protocol on a dedicated network.

12. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11, wherein said secure protocol comprises encryption.

13. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11, wherein said secure protocol comprises compression.

14. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11, wherein said secure protocol comprises TCP/IP messages employing a proprietary message syntax.

15. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11, wherein said secure protocol comprises a proprietary message syntax, compression, and encryption.

16. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, comprising computer instructions for:

partitioning a collaboration function into sub-functions;

assigning at least one said sub-function to each of a plurality of logical processes;

associating a respective management process with each of said plurality of logical processes, said logical processes configured so that each said logical process is capable of communicating with every other said logical process thru said respective management process;

communicating between said logical processes using said respective management processes; and

monitoring said respective management processes with a single supervisor process;

wherein said communicating employs a secure protocol on a dedicated network.

17. The computer data signal of Claim 16, wherein said secure protocol comprises encryption.

18. The computer data signal of Claim 16, wherein said secure protocol comprises compression.

19. The computer data signal of Claim 16, wherein said secure protocol comprises TCP/IP messages employing a proprietary message syntax.

20. The computer data signal of Claim 16, wherein said secure protocol comprises a proprietary message syntax, compression, and encryption.